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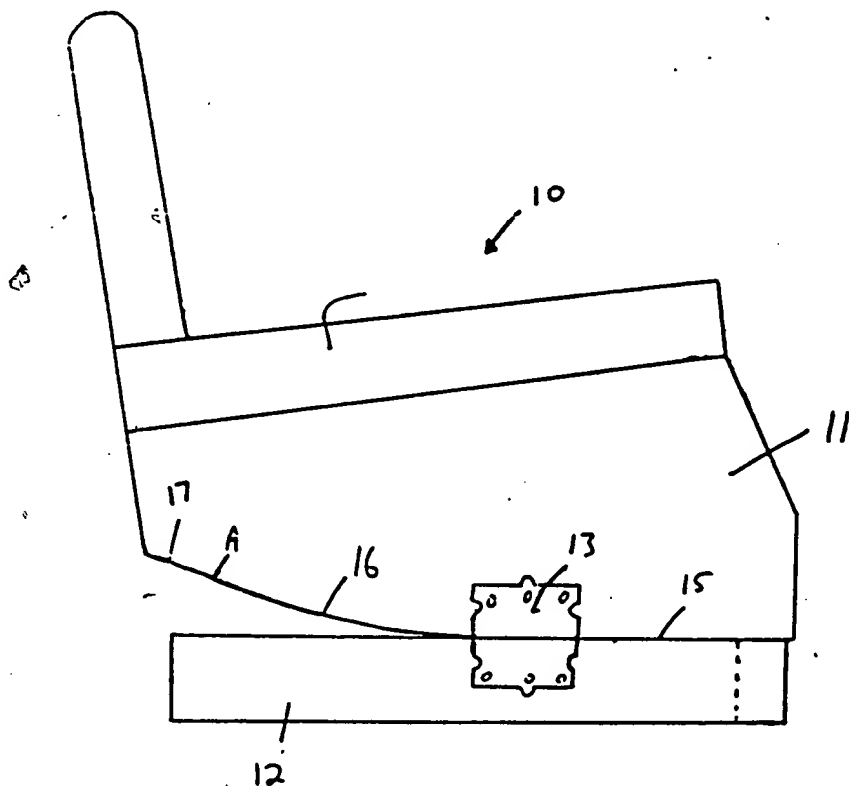
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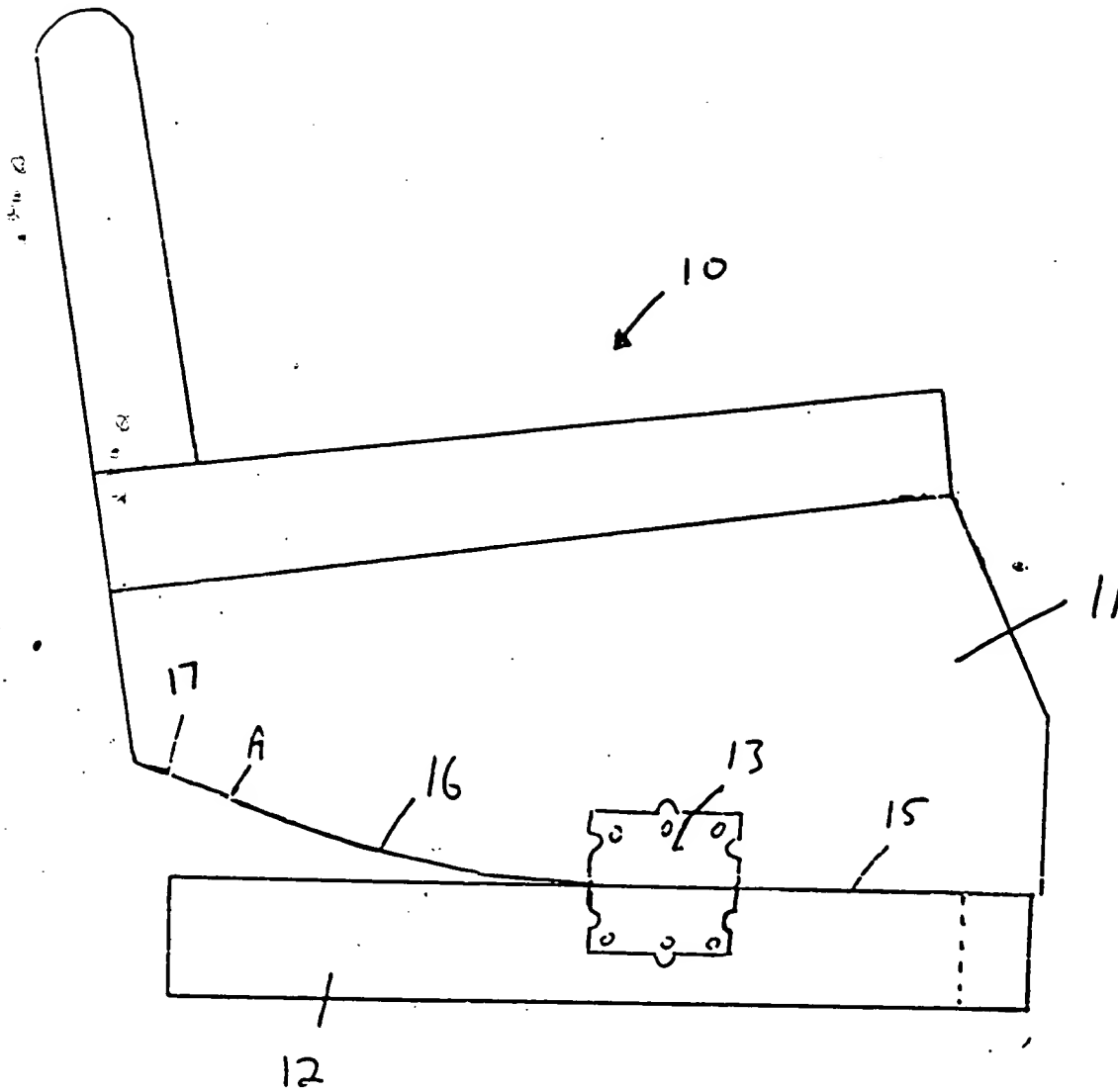
(54) Rocking chair

(57) A rocking chair 10 comprises a seat 11 which rocks on a base 12, the seat having a bottom support surface which has a front flat portion 15, which defines a stable position, and a curved portion 16 which enables rocking to occur. A rear flat portion 17 limits excess rocking. Means may be provided to lock the seat 11 to base 12 in the stable position of the chair.



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SPECIFICATION

Rocking Chair

- 5 The present invention relates to a rocking chair.

With existing rocking chairs it is difficult to maintain the chair steady when desired, e.g. when sitting upright or in a forward position while writing or drinking.

- 10 The present invention seeks to overcome or reduce this problem.

- According to the present invention there is provided a rocking chair having a bottom support surface of which a first portion is plane and a second portion is curved.

- A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawing which shows a side view of a rocking chair 10. The chair comprises a seat part 11 which is relatively movably mounted on a base 12 by means of a spring mechanism 13. The upper and lower surfaces of base 12 are flat. The lower surface of the seat part 11 has a front portion 15 which is substantially flat and which, in the position shown, engages the upper surface of base 12. A rear portion 16 of the lower surface of part 11 is curved in a convex manner and extends from the mechanism 13 to a point A near the back of the part 11. A short portion 17 at the extreme rear of part 11 is fiat.

- When an occupant of the chair 10 is sitting upright it is completely stable. Portion 15 is in engagement with base 12 and rocking cannot occur. When the occupant leans back, the seat 11 adjusts itself in accordance with the amount of tilt required according to the height and length of leg of the occupant. The appropriate part of curved portion 16 is then in engagement with the base 12, and the chair provides the usual rocking chair action. Should the occupant lean too far back, or should excess rocking occur, flat portion 17 engages the upper surface of base 12 to prevent damage to the spring mechanism 13 and to restrict the angle of tilt.

- An advantage of the above-described chair is that it is completely stable when desired, so that spillage of drinks etc can be avoided. When the occupant finishes drinking, the chair can then be tilted back as with a usual rocking chair. A very comfortable arrangement is thus provided.

- The bottom of base 12 can be provided with castors or other movable support members if desired. The base 12 and/or the bottom of part 11 can extend right across the width of the chair; alternatively a base member can be provided at each side of the chair with a corresponding edge of the seat part resting thereon.

- If desired, means may be provided for locking or latching the rocking chair in its stable

position. This would prevent undesired rocking of the chair if, for example, a child or a dog jumped on to the chair unexpectedly. The locking or latching means are provided on the side of part 11 next to surface portion 15 and on the side of the adjacent part of base 12.

- The invention is not restricted to rocking chairs with a stationary base; it can be applied to the older type of rocking chair in which the seat is rigidly attached to the runners. The runners themselves are each shaped similarly to the lower surface 15, 16, 17 of part 11.

- It is envisaged that the flat portion 15 could be provided at the rear of part 11 so that the lean-back position would be the stable one.

CLAIMS

1. A rocking chair having a bottom support surface of which a first portion is plane and a second portion is curved.
2. A chair according to claim 1, wherein the plane portion is arranged in front of the second portion.
3. A chair according to claim 2 wherein a further plane portion is arranged behind the second portion.
4. A chair according to any preceding claim comprising a seat part, which has the bottom support surface, and a stationary base part upon which bears the bottom support surface.
5. A chair according to claim 4 wherein the seat part is rockably mounted on the base part by means of a spring mechanism.
6. A chair according to claim 4 or 5 comprising two spaced stationary base parts wherein the seat part has two members which define two corresponding bottom support surfaces.
7. A chair according to any of claims 4 to 6 wherein means are provided for locking the seat part to a or the base part when the plane portion of the bottom surface bears on the base part.
8. A rocking chair substantially as heren described with reference to the accompanying drawing.
9. As an independent invention the additional feature of any of claims 2 to 7.